Overview of the

Wildland Fire Decision Support System





Briefing Topics

- Background and Policy
- Review the WFDSS components
- Discuss the communication strategy in place for WFDSS in BLM



WFDSS key points

- Primary application is in fire operations
- Secondary applications (longer term):
 - 1. Fuels planning
 - 2. NEPA evaluation of alternatives
 - 3. Risk quantification
- Spatial data needed from all resources to give most power to WFDSS



Why is BLM adopting WFDSS?

- Inefficient decision making (Office of Inspector General review)
- Wildland Fire Leadership Council (BLM Director) and Fire Executive Council (Jim Douglas our rep) committed to adopt WFDSS
- WFDSS to eventually provide:
- 1. Cost savings, efficiencies
- 2. Latest science
- 3. Policy consistency



So, what is the WFDSS?

(Wildland Fire Decision Support System)

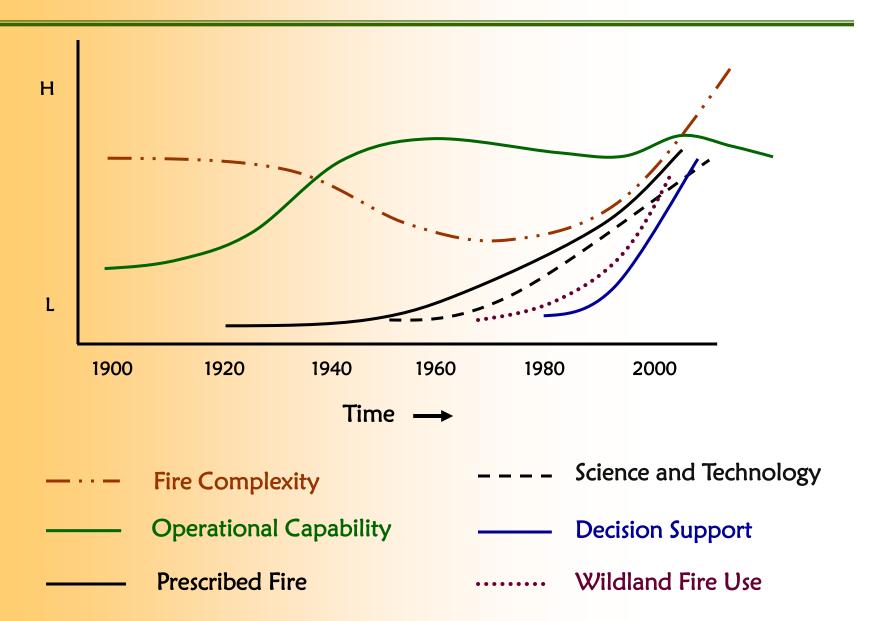
- WFDSS scalable, interagency wildland fire documentation and analysis system
- Documents fire information, provides modeling, and depicts values spatially
- Applicable to all wildland fires and conforms with recent policy modifications

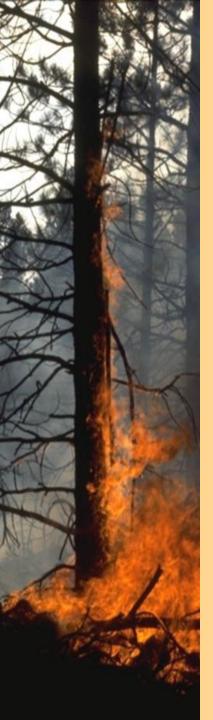


Fire Director's Expectations 12/3/08

- WFDSS is decided upon
- Schedule is flexible
- Combine skills in a working group

Wildland Fire Management – Complexity and Capability





Wildland Fire Decision Making



- Resource availability can no longer match large fire occurrence,
- Management of large fire costs becomingly increasingly important,
- Smallest percentage of total wildland fires large fires, accounts for largest amount of expenditures,
- Initial strategic response decisions are most important in terms of resource commitments and expenditures.



WFDSS - Goals of Development

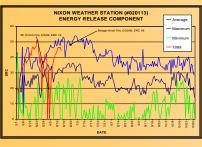




Provides decision support,

Documents strategic decisions,

- utilizes appropriate fire behavior modeling, economic principles, and information technology,
- Allows for operational plan preparation,
- Is linear, scalable, and responsive to fire complexity,
- Is spatially oriented, graphically displayed, with no reliance on large text input requirements,
- Is Internet-based to provide risk and decision sharing simply and efficiently,





Subsection Areas and Information Flow

Information

Purpose:

Situation

Objectives

Course of Action

Validation

Decision Summary

Periodic Assessment

Documents the initial and continuing fire situation, and provides required information to complete administrative fire reporting.



WFDSS – User Roles

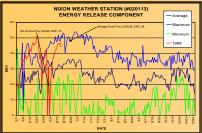




Eight Specific Roles Identified in WFDSS:

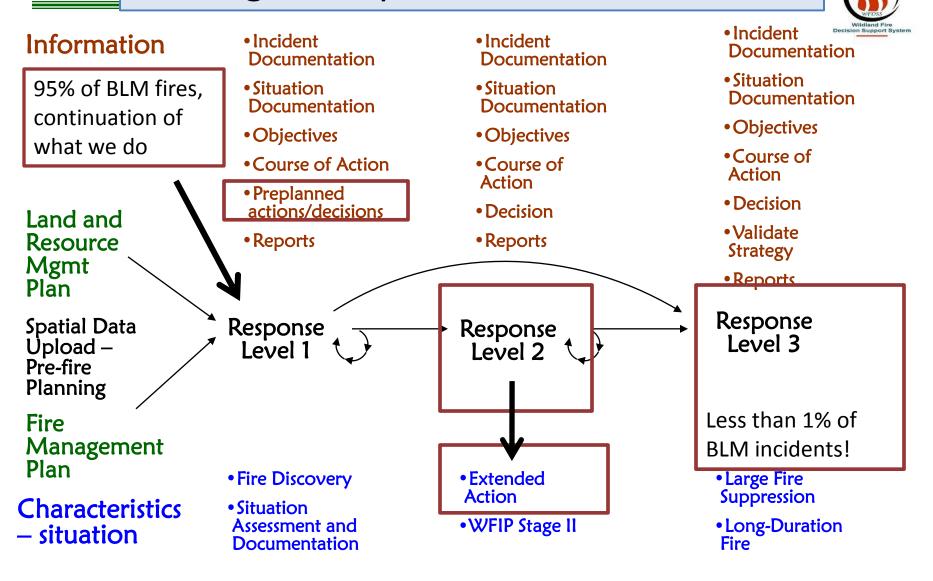
- Viewer
- Dispatcher typically dispatch centers
- Author typically FMO, DM, or agency rep.
- Geographic Area Editor
- National Editor
- Fire Behavior Analyst Specialized skills in fire behavior (FBAN, LTAN)
- RAVAR Analyst Quantifies values at risk
- Super Analyst







Looking at Response Levels in WFDSS





Wildland Fire documentation options for 2009 season

- Wildland Fire Situation Analysis and associated documents
- WFDSS text version fill in the blank template without spatial analyses
- WFDSS web-based version



WFDSS options for 2009

- WFDSS text version fill in the blank template without spatial analyses
- Meant to be an interim tool

Wildland Fire Decision Support System - Text System Unit BLM Nevada, Elko District

Date 6/30/2009

Response Level 2

National Significance No

INFORMATION

	RL1	RL2	RL3	
Fire Name	R	R	R	Mahogany Butte
Location	R	R	R	Latitude: 41.5993 Longitude: 116.6974
Start Date/Time	R	R	R	6/27/2009 0800
Size	R	R	R	18,804
Cause	R	R	R	Lightning
Geographic Area	R	R	R	WGB
Administrative Unit(s)	R	R	R	Elko District BLM
Involved Cooperators	R	R	R	Nevada Division of Forestry, IL Ranch
Fire Management Unit	R	R	R	FMU#6- Owyhee Desert
Fire Number	R	R	R	NV-EKD-00195
Management Code	R	R	R	DNN9

OBJECTIVES

	RL1	RL2	RL3	
Strategic Objectives	R	R	R	From Elko/Wells RMP:
				 Maintain fire as part of the natural ecological process and to achieve desired plant communities for grazing and wildlife management.
				Maintain native vegetation diversity and prevent the encroachment of annual and non-native plant species.
				 Unplanned ignitions will be managed using current guidelines for Sage Grouse and Sagebrush ecosystems
Relative Risk Assessment	R	0	NA	See Relative Risk Assessment Chart
Incident Objectives	R	R	R	As always, firefighter and public safety are the highest priority. Suppression actions will be conducted with this priority in mind.
				Provide for the protection of sage grouse populations and habitats by using District suppression guidelines.
				Contain fire west of Desert Ranch Reservoir, south of Owyhee Canyon WSA, east of Silver Lake, and north of 2006 Winters fire. Minimize fire impacts to private lands, and protect structures and developments.
Management Requirements	R	R	R	Minimize impacts to sage-steppe ecosystem, and protect Sage Grouse habitat.
				Consider social, economic, and political constraints when formulating operational plans. Involve local ranchers, NDF, the Resource Advisor, and the assigned IMT Liaison in briefings and planning sessions.
				Protect high value habitat, minimize impacts to areas of exotic vegetation invasion, and protect cultural values.
				For fires occurring within or adjacent to mine facilities, cultural sites, and when fires are within or threaten a WSA, a Resource Advisor is required to be ordered for the fire.
				In addition to a Resource Advisor, a Public Information Officer, and Law Enforcement Officer may be desired on site, especially when fires are in close proximity to private lands (homes and improvements).
				Manage the incident safely, and manage incident cost in accordance with values to be protected.
Incident Requirements	R	R	R	Mechanized equipment may be used to protectare as of high resource concerns or values; however, the use of mechanized equipment will be evaluated against potential long-term resource damage.
				Use of mechanized equipment should be limited in areas of exotic vegetation invasions and cultural sites.
				Avoid, whenever possible, burning out unburned islands of sagebrush.
				Avoid surface disturbing suppression activities in riparian and recreation areas, whenever possible.
				Application of retardant restrictions: Avoid retardant dropped within 300 feet of water sources, if possible.
				Power lines, communication sites and other critical sites within mining



WFDSS Options for 2009

- WFDSS web-based version spatial analysis and automated features
- Eventually the sole documentation and analysis system for wildland fire mgmt.



Home

Training Data

FAQs Related Resources

About WFDSS

Contact Us

Sign In

Request Production Account

Request Training Account

WFDSS Help Desk fire help@fs.fed.us +1 800-253-5559

Welcome!

Wildland Fire Decision Support System

Welcome to the Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS)!

This system is intended to assist fire managers and analysts in making strategic and tactical decisions for fire incidents. It is designed to replace the WFSA (Wildland Fire Situation Analysis), Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP), and Long-Term Implementation Plan (LTIP) processes with a single process that is easier to use, more intuitive, linear, scalable, and progressively responsive to changing fire complexity.

WFDSS was conceived as a way of integrating the various applications used to manage incidents into a single system, which streamlines the analysis and reporting processes.

WFDSS is expected to be fully operational in 2009, and when completed, will provide the following advantages over previous systems:

- Combines desktop applications for fire modeling into a web-based system for easier data acquisition.
- Provides an easy way for fire managers and analysts to accurately document their decision-making
 process by allowing results of analyses to be attached to the decision point and included in the final
 incident report.
- · Provides one decision process and documentation system for all types of wildland fires.
- Is a web-based application for easier sharing of analyses and reports across all levels of the federal wildland fire organization.
- · Introduces economic principles into the fire decision process.

Latest Information

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- WFDSS Training System Now Available
- Training Webinars Scheduled
- WFDSS Replaces Other
 Decision Reporting Tools

Fire Related Websites

- WFDSS Training System
- NIFC
- Fire.org
- LANDFIRE
- ROSS
- FPA
- FAMWEB

http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss/WFDSS_Home



WFDSS web addresses

- Log In Site: http://wfdss.usgs.gov/wfdss_proto/faces/jsp/login/ WFDSSLogin
- Please use production site for actual fires, and testing site for exercises and mockups

National Preparedness Level: 1

Incident: Elko Mahogany Fire - test

WFDSS PRODUCTION SYSTEM Prototype Application - Currently Under Development

*User Name	
	Request new account
*Password	•
	Reset your password
Sign In	

For testing, training, and practicing, use the WFDSS Training Site

WFDSS Help Desk

fire help@fs.fed.us 800-253-5559 / 208-387-5290

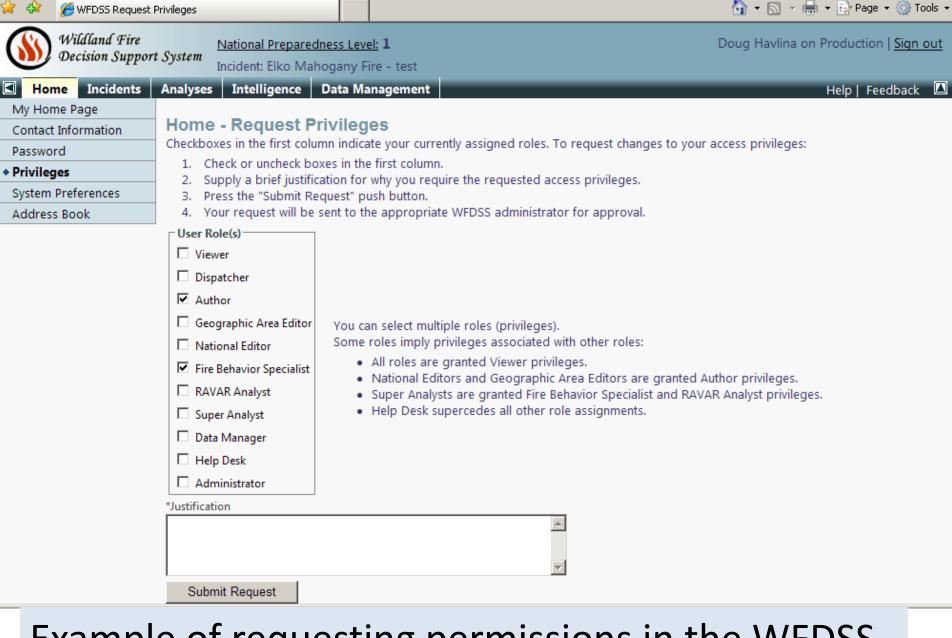
***** TERMS OF USE *****

Unauthorized access to this United States Government Computer System and software is prohibited by Title 18, United States Code 1030.

This statute states that: Whoever knowingly, or intentionally accesses a computer without authorization or exceeds authorized access, and by means of such conduct, obtains, alters, damages, destroys, or discloses information or prevents authorized use of (data or a computer owned by or operated for) the Government of the United States shall be punished by a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both.

All activities on this system and network may be monitored, intercepted, recorded, read, copied, or captured in any manner and disclosed in any manner by authorized personnel. THERE IS NO RIGHT OF PRIVACY ON THIS SYSTEM. System personnel may give to law enforcement officials any potential evidence of crimes found on this USDA computer system.

USE OF THIS SYSTEM BY ANY USER, AUTHORIZED OR UNAUTHORIZED, CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THIS MONITORING, INTERCEPTION, RECORDING, READING, COPYING OR CAPTURING AND DISCLOSURE. REPORT UNAUTHORIZED USE TO AN INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY OFFICER.



Example of requesting permissions in the WFDSS

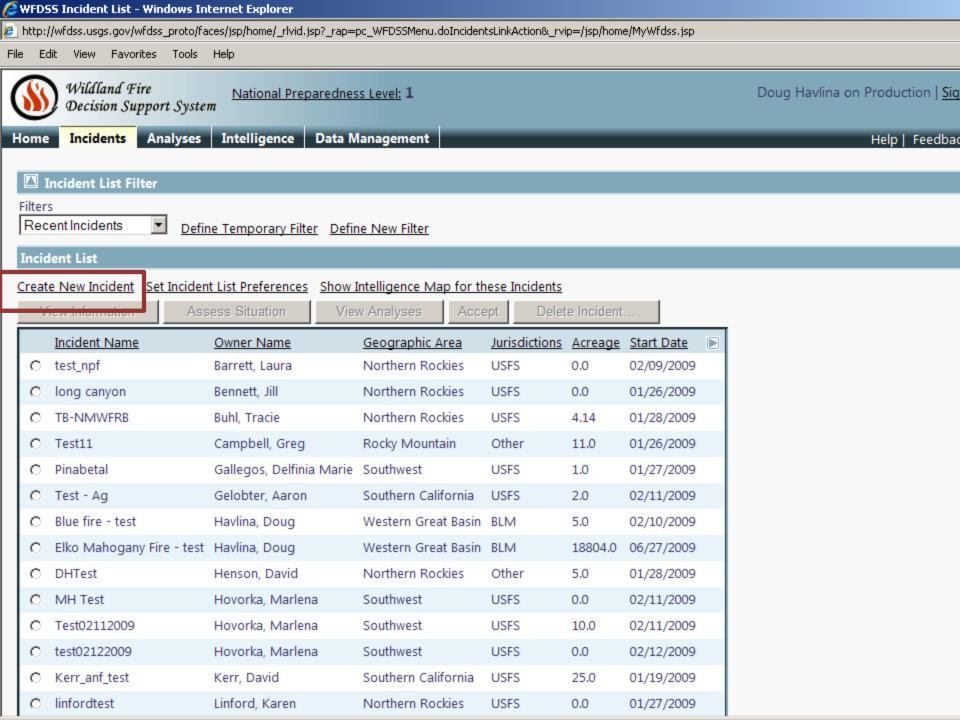


Data Manager

- FMO, Fire Planner, Environmental Coordinator
- Responsible for coordinating FMU and RMP planning objectives into WFDSS
- Result: objectives populate when latitude and longitude are entered



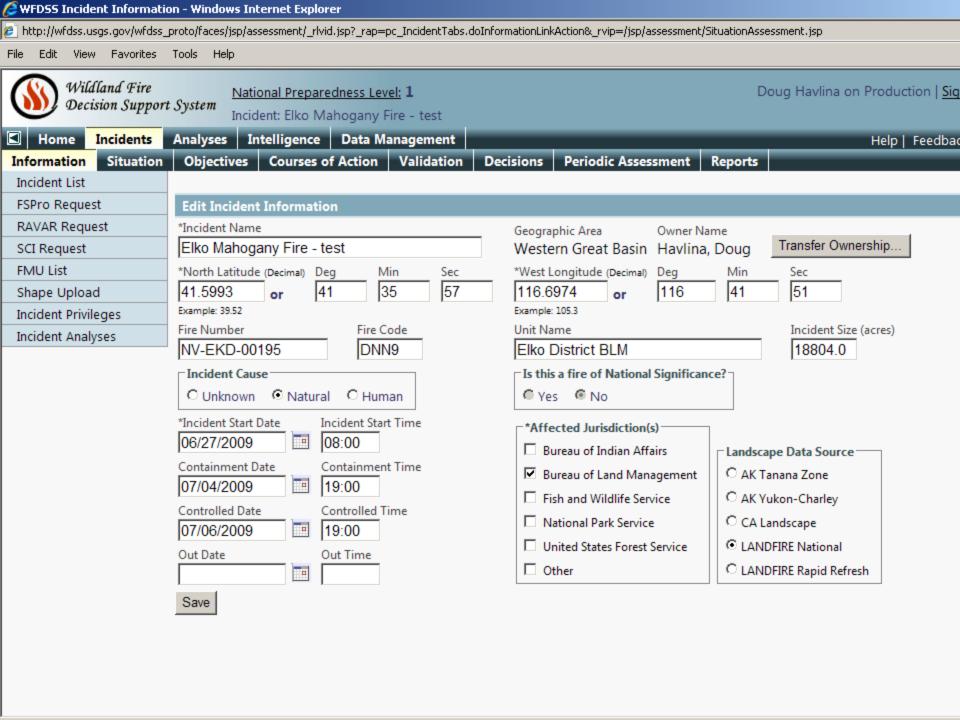
Typical BLM fire which escapes initial attack

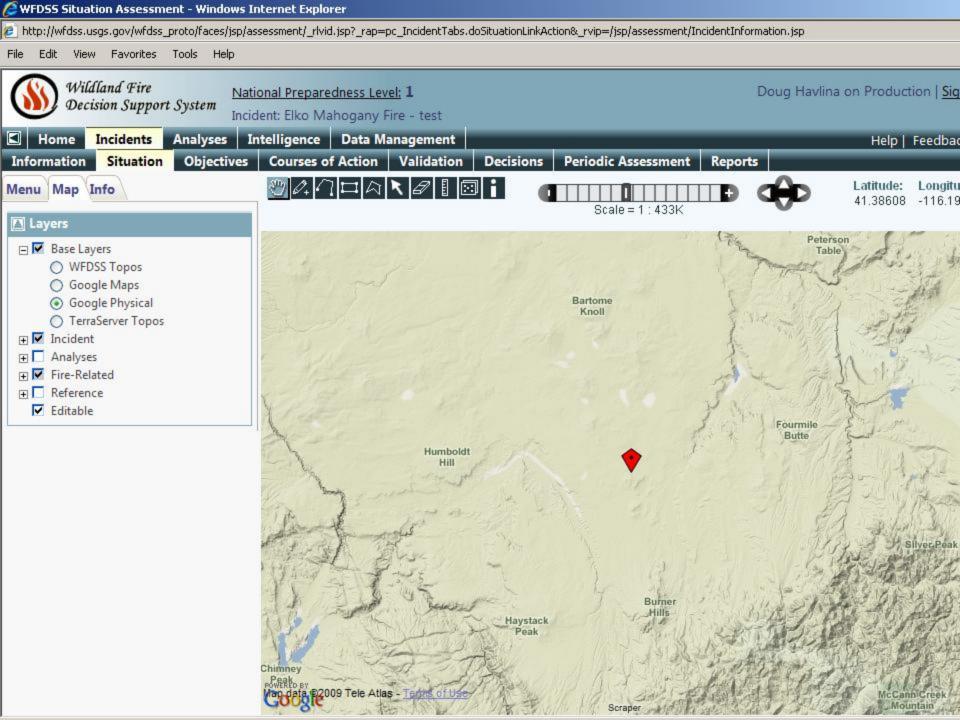


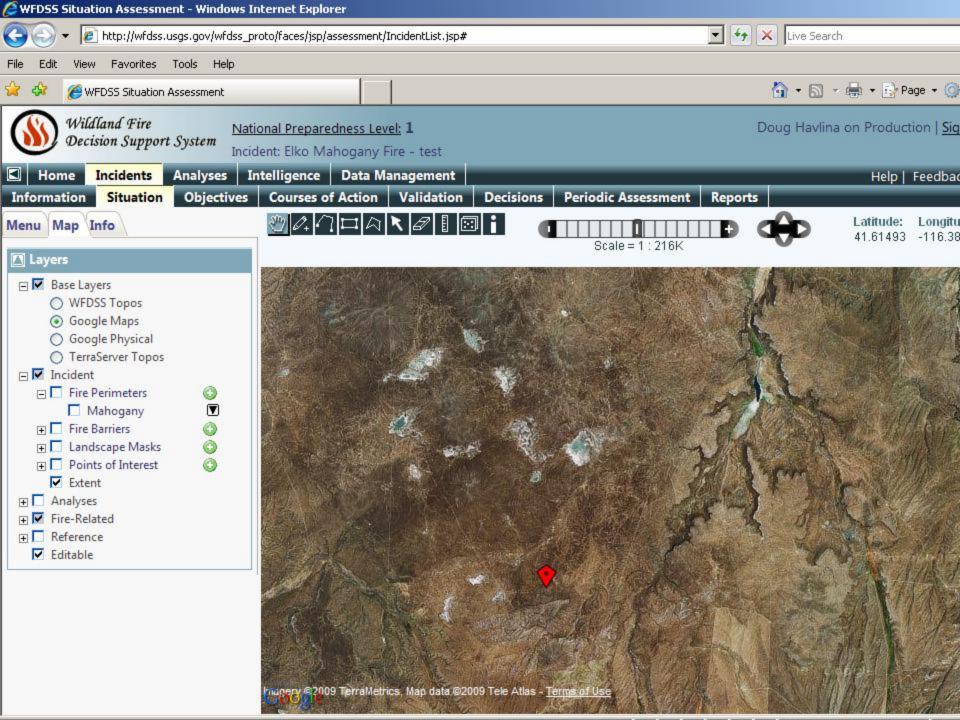


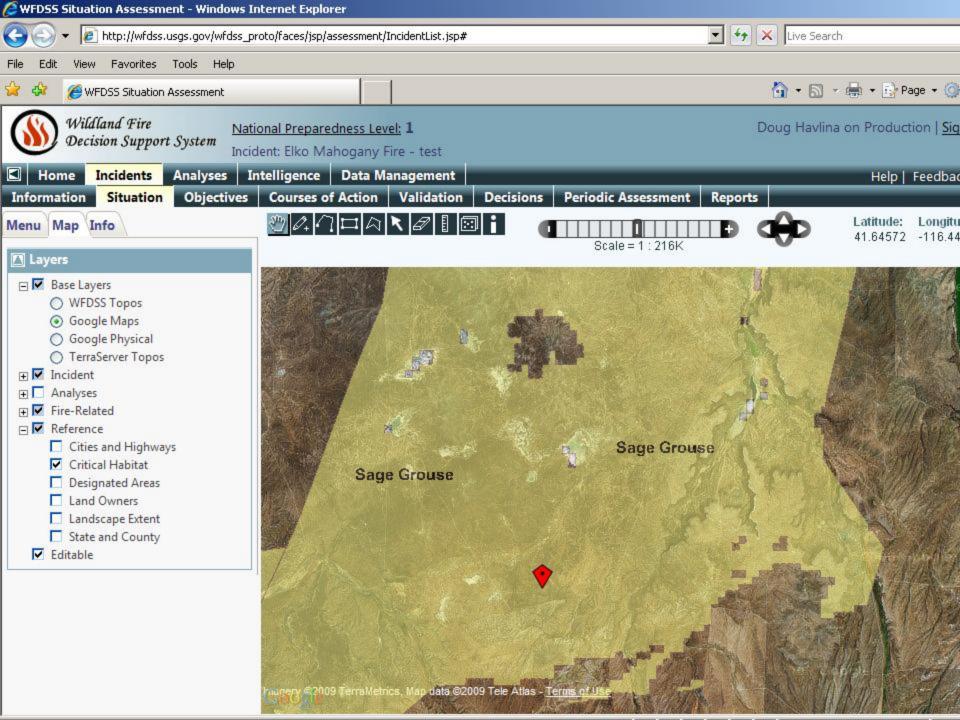
Once incident is created....

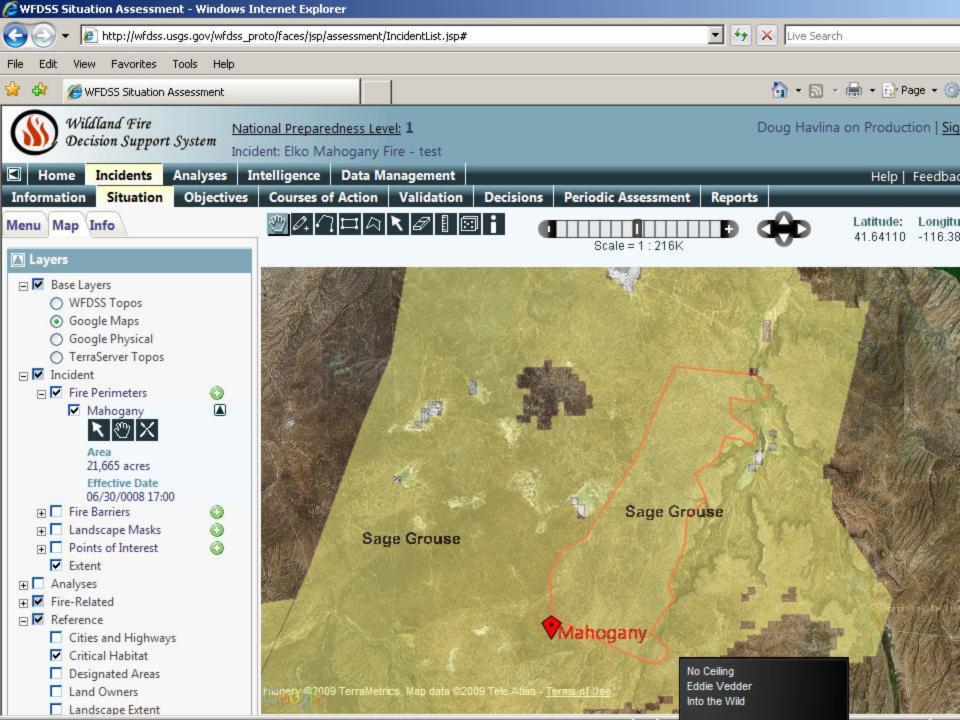
 Series of tabs available which guide user through the decision and analysis process

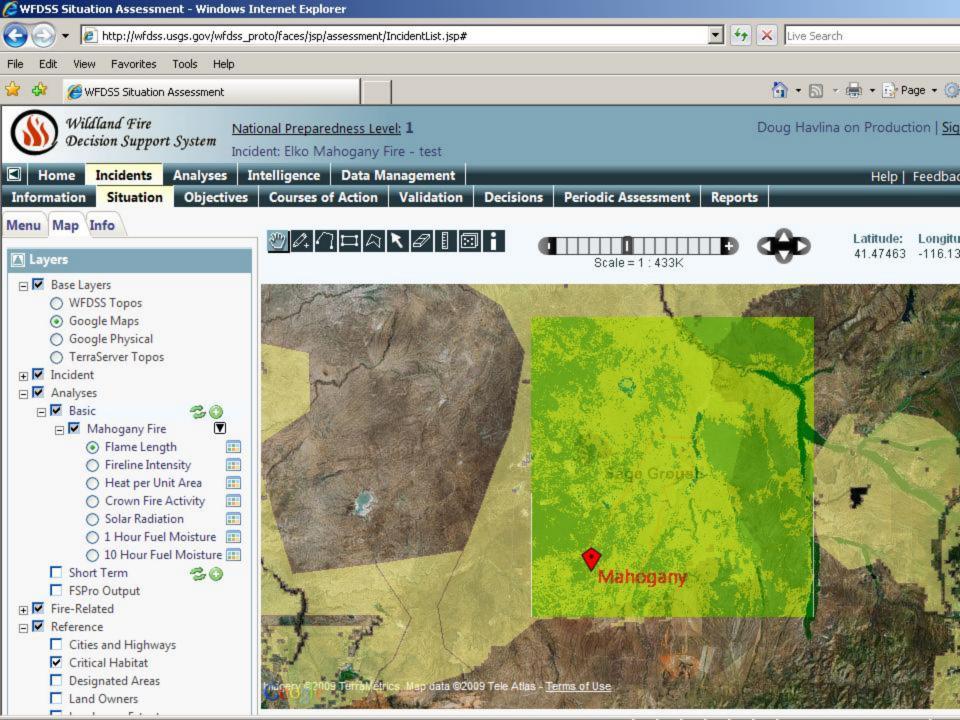


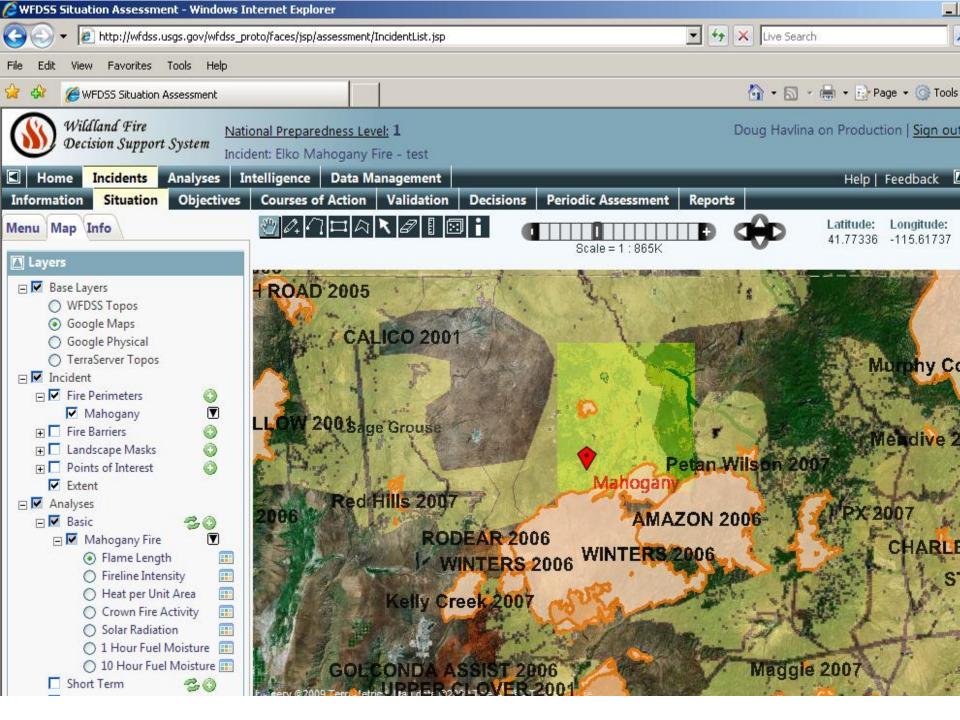




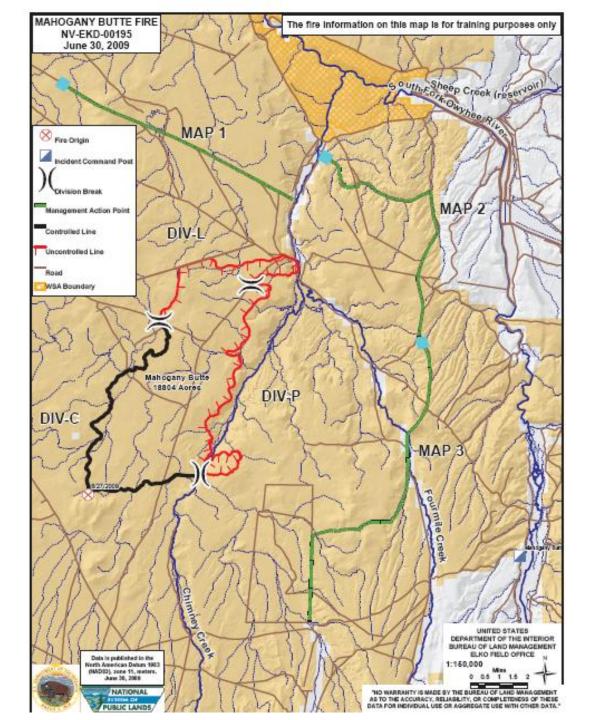


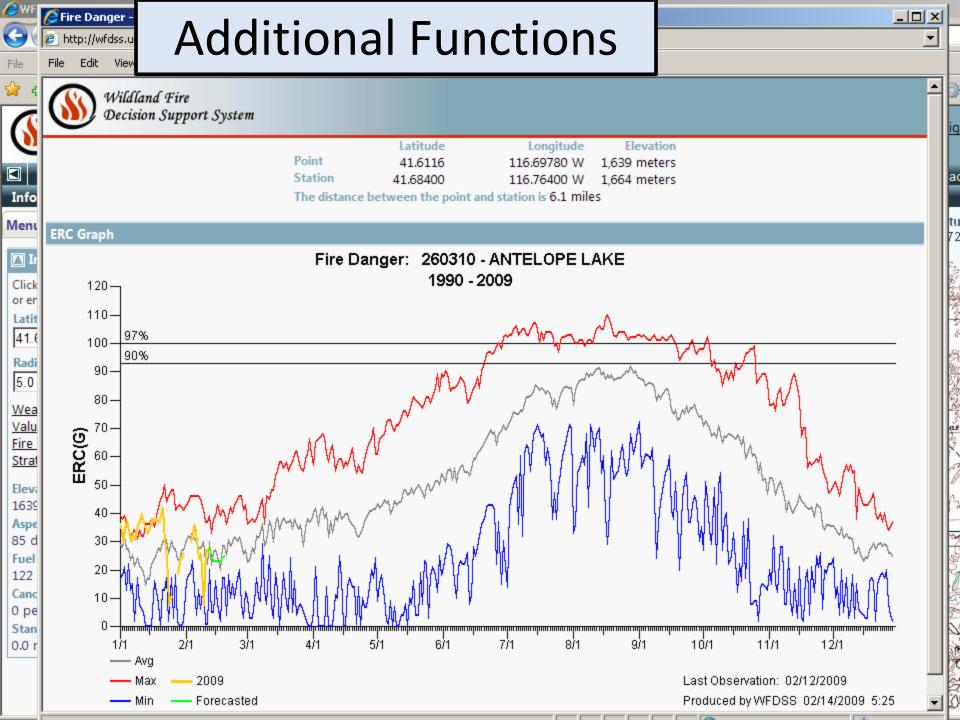






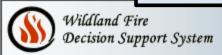
System	l Preparedness : Elko Mahoga		Doug Havlina on Production sest		
Analyses Intel	ligence Da	ata Manage	ement Help Feedb		
Objectives C	ourses of Act	ion Val	lidation Decisions Periodic Assessment Reports		
☑ Strategic Dir	rections Select	tion			
Active Status Active Status Next Decision No Filter Courrently Active No Filter Included Courrently Active Active on Active on Active on Next Decision No Filter Included Included Included Included or Excluded Included or Excluded Included or Excluded					
Strategic Direction	ons For Elko I	Mahogany I	Fire - Test		
Create Strategic Di	irection				
Activated	Deactivated	Included	Description		
o		Yes	STRATEGIC DIRECTION from Elko Interagency FMP and Elko Resource Management Plans: 1. Minimize impacts to sage-steppe ecosystems; protect Sage Grouse habitat. 2. Protect high value habitat, minimize ground disturbances in exotic plant areas, and protect cultural resource values. 3. For fires occurring within or adjacent to mine facilities, cultural sites, or those that threaten a WSA, a resource advisor will be on the fire. 4. In addition to a Resource Advisor, a Public Information Officer and Law Enforcement Officer may be desired on site, especially when fires are in close proximity to private lands (homes and improvements) 5. Manage the incident safely, and manage incident cost in accordance with values to be protected.		
c		Yes	Mgmt Requirements and BMPs: 1. Minimize impacts to sage-steppe ecosystem, and protect Sage Grouse habitat. 2. Consider social, economic, and political constraints when formulating operational plans. Involve local ranchers, NDF, the Resource Advisor, and the assigned IMT Liason in briefings and planning sessions. 3. Protect high value habitat, minimize impacts to areas of exotic vegetation invations, and protect cultural values. 4. For fires occurring within or adjacent to mine facilities, cultural sites, and when fires are within or threaten a WSA, a Resource Advisor is required to be ordered for the fire. 5. In addition to a Resource Advisor, a Public Information Officer and Law Enforcement Office may be desired on site, especially when fires are in close proximity to private lands (homes and improvements). 6. Manage the incident safely, and manage incident cost in accordance with values to be protected.		
c		No	COURSE OF ACTION for Mahogany Fire: Organization: Continue existing Type 3 incident command struction, and utilize incoming resources on fire on 7/2 at 0600. Resources arriving from Elko evening of 7/1 include 8 type 4 engines, 2 dozers, 3 type 2 crews, 2 TFLD, and 2 DIVS. Control Actions: Continue direct attack with dozers and engines along north and east flanks of incident. Elko helitack to support with bucket drops. DIVISION L: check fire spread south of MAP segment 1.		
			DIVISION P: attempt to check fire spread west of fourmile creek, and keep fire from reaching map segment 3. DIVISION C: continue mop-up and cold trailing. Be available for support to other divisions or IA.		





Edit View

Additional Functions



Favo

000 FNUS55 KLKN 141449 FWFLKN

FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST FOR NORTHERN AND CENTRAL NEVADA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ELKO NV -- OFF-SEASON FORMAT 316 AM PST SAT FEB 14 2009

NVZ452-151400-ELKO COUNTY PLUS LANDER AND EUREKA COUNTIES NORTH OF I-80-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ELKO...SPRING CREEK...CARLIN...WELLS 316 AM PST SAT FEB 14 2009

- .TODAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY. SCATTERED SNOW SHOWERS. HIGHS 30 TO 37. SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH.
- .TONIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 5 TO 12. SOUTH WINDS AROUND 10 MPH.
- .SUNDAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS 33 TO 40. SOUTH WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH.
- .SUNDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 12 TO 18. SOUTHEAST WINDS AROUND 10 MPH.
- .PRESIDENTS DAY...CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS. HIGHS 34 TO 41. SOUTHEAST WINDS AROUND 10 MPH.
- .MONDAY NIGHT...CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SNOW. LOWS 18 TO 24.
- .TUESDAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS 34 TO 40.
- .TUESDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SNOW. LOWS 13 TO 19.
- .WEDNESDAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS 33 TO 40.
- .WEDNESDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 6 TO 13.
- .THURSDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS 34 TO 41.
- .THURSDAY NIGHT...PARTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 9 TO 19.
- .FRIDAY...PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS 39 TO 46.



RAVAR Report

Values Inventory Information

Latitude Longitude Radius 41.5993 116.6974 W 5.0 miles

Asset	Value	Data Source	Currency	Coverage
Census Housing Values	\$0	U.S. Census Bureau	Jan 01, 2000	National coverage
Habitat: Sage Grouse	43,614 acres	BLM	Jul 15, 2008	National coverage
Jurisdiction: Private	40 acres	Various		AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY
Jurisdiction: BLM	50,225 acres	Various		AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

Susan Goodman of the NOC is leading effort to compile state spatial data and build into WFDSS



Outreach of the WFDSS

Near Term

- a. Alpha-testing; more repetition
- b. Feedback form for users in 2009
- c. FAQs in development
- d. Mock up examples in development
- e. Info sharing by your state contact on oversight group
- f. WFDSS website at BLM FAM webpage
- Long-term
- a. LANDFIRE refresh (end of 2010)
- b. Training resources
- c. Susan Goodman coordinating spatial data



WFDSS State Contacts

State Contacts for WFDSS	Emphasis Area
Dave Jandt, Zone FMO, Fairbanks AK	Alaska Point of Contact
Mark Pater, Fire Ecologist, Safford AZ	Arizona Point of Contact
James Newman, State Fire Planner	California Point of Contact
Gwenan Poirier, State Fire Planner	Colorado and Wyoming Point of Contact

Total of 24 BLM employees making up the oversight group

Santa Fe NM	
Rex McKnight, State FMO, Reno NV	Nevada Point of Contact
Louisa Evers, Fire Ecologist, Portland OR	Oregon Point of Contact
Brad Washa, State Fuels Lead, Salt Lake City UT	Utah Point of Contact



Actions Needed for WFDSS Implementation

- Spatial data submission (Susan Goodman of NOC is coordinating)
- RMP and FMP objectives need to be built into the WFDSS (Data Manager role in WFDSS)
- BLM's WFDSS Oversight group will provide outreach, guidance, and awareness (know your state lead)
- A specific BLM WFDSS website to be up soon (http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/FEM/wfdss.htm) with IM, FAQs, and other resources